

REMARKS

The Office Action

In the Office Action issued February 22, 2008, the Examiner rejected claims 1—7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Sabbagh (U.S. Patent No. 6,814,510).

Applicants has carefully considered the Office Action. Claim 8 had been added to the application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in light of the following comments.

Claim 1 is not anticipated by Sabbagh

The Examiner rejected independent claim 1 as being unpatentable over Sabbagh. The Examiner states that Sabbagh teaches a partial print provider that permits a first print spooler, spooler 324, Figure 3, associated with the network print server, server system (340) to interface with a second print spooler (spooler 326) associated with a print server (340) for further processing a print job. Applicants disagree with this rejection for at least the following reasons.

First, it is submitted that the spoolers 324 and 326 are not associated with the server 340. As the drawing shows, those spoolers are indeed associated with the client system 304. This is evidenced by the dotted line surrounding the two servers, which is under the Windows client system. Furthermore, the specification refers to 326 as the client spooler router. This, in and of itself, is evidence that the spooler router 326 is not associated with the server, but is instead associated with the client 304. Because these two print spoolers are not associated with the server system 340, Sabbagh cannot be said to anticipate independent claim 1.

Second, the Examiner states that it is the print provider which permits the first spooler to interface with the second spooler. However, as shown in the specification, and supported in the drawing, the remote procedure call interface (342) stems from the Kernel-mode Port Driver stack 334. Specification states that the "Kernel-mode or [sic] port driver stack 334 directs the open printer call from the client system". Sabbagh goes on to state that the Windows NT server system 340 receives the remote procedure call interface signal from the client system 304 via the Kernel-mode Port Driver stack 334. In this form, Sabbagh clearly shows that it is the port driver stack that permits the

interface, not the partial print provider. This process is spelled out in the discussion of the art (Background) section of the patent application, see page 3, line 25 through page 4, line 2. "Attempts have been made in this field using a language and port monitor approach in which propriety code is simply appended to the end of the Windows NT print processing chain." Again, this technique, which is spelled out in Sabbagh does not anticipate independent claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection to this claim be withdrawn.

Dependent Claims 2-8 are not anticipated by Sabbagh

Dependent claims 2-8 are all dependent from claim 1. As stated above, independent claim 1 is currently in condition for allowance. Because all of the dependent claims are dependent from claim 1, these dependent claims should also be allowed for at least the same reason. Therefore, it is requested that the rejection to these claims also be withdrawn.

Claim 8, in particular, is in condition for allowance for at least for the following reason. Claim 8 states that the partial print provider acts as a direct link between the first print spooler and the second print spooler. This claim gains support in Figure 3 where the direct connection is shown. Sabbagh does not show a direct connection as stated in claim 8, at least in part because the port driver stack 334 interrupts the direct connection. Therefore, it is requested that the rejections to all claims pending in the application be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing comments, Applicant submits that claims 1-7 are currently in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests early notification of such allowance. Should any issue remain unsolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to attempt to resolve any such issues.

Any fee that is due in conjunction with the filing of this Response, Applicant authorizes deduction of that fee from Deposit Account 24-0037.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he/she is hereby authorized to call Joseph D. Dreher, at Telephone Number (216) 861-5582.

☒ Remaining Claims, as delineated below:

(1) FOR	(2) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT LESS HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR		(3) NUMBER EXTRA
TOTAL CLAIMS	8	- 20 =	0
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS	1	- 3 =	0

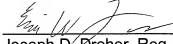
☒ This is an authorization under 37 CFR 1.136(a)(3) to treat any concurrent or future reply, requiring a petition for extension of time, as incorporating a petition for the appropriate extension of time.

☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any filing or prosecution fees which may be required, under 37 CFR 1.16, 1.17, and 1.21 (but not 1.18), or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 24-0037.

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Respectfully submitted,

FAY SHARPE LLP



Joseph D. Dreher, Reg. No. 37,123
Eric W. Lee, Reg. No. 58,857
1100 Superior Avenue, Seventh Floor
Cleveland, OH 44114-2579
216-861-5582

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